

**REMARKS**

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 10-18 have been allowed. Claims 19-20 have been added in this Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from new claim 19. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated September 16, 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to include the reference numerals 12, 14 and 30. Corrected replacement drawing sheets accompany this Amendment adding the numerals 12, 14 and 30 to Fig. 1. The Examiner's consideration of the replacement drawing sheets is requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kluge (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,465). The Examiner states that the patent of Kluge shows a shelf bracket comprising an angled member defined by a vertical portion (26), a horizontal portion (22) and a cross brace (27) with a hook (51) for supporting another article. It is submitted that the Kluge reference '465 specifically teaches a one piece bent metal strap, and therefore does not anticipate, teach or suggest an elongate interchangeable cross brace as recited in claim 1 of the present application. The Kluge bracket is formed by a single, elongated, metal strap having two bends to form a linear mounting leg and a linear shelf support leg related at right angles (see the Abstract) and a longer angle brace 27 is formed by reentrantly bending one end of the strap 21 indicated at 28, to angularly align brace 27 to extend between the lower end of leg 26 and the outer end of leg 25. See column 2, lines 34-37. Therefore, the Kluge '465 reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest an interchangeable cross brace as recited in claims 1, 2 and 8 of the present application. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reynolds et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,303,195). The Examiner states that the patent to Reynolds et al shows a shelf bracket comprising an angled element defined by a vertical portion (14), a horizontal portion (16) and an ornamental cross brace (18). It is submitted that the Reynolds references does not anticipate, teach or suggest the invention as recited in claims 1 and 2. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 now recites that enlarged portions are formed adjacent each outer end of the first and second elongate portions of the angled

member and that the elongate interchangeable cross brace is engageable with the enlarged portions and extends between the first and second elongate portions. It is submitted that the Reynolds et al reference does not teach or suggest this specific structural configuration. In particular, the Reynolds et al reference discloses an outwardly extending nose-like projection 28 disposed approximately centrally of a length of vertically-disposed arm 14, while a nose-like projection 30 is disposed adjacent the free end of the horizontal-disposed arm 16 and includes a threaded opening for receiving a separate threaded fastener 42. See column 2, lines 39-45. It is submitted that this teaching does not anticipate or suggest the specific structural configuration as recited in claims 1 and 2 of the present application. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 3-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds et al. The Examiner states that the specific type of ornamentation used by Reynolds et al is seen as an obvious matter of engineering choice, since the ornamentation only apply to the aesthetic of the shelf support and Reynolds et al states that different types of ornamentation can be used (directing the applicants attention to column 3, lines 10-13). It is submitted that the teaching of Reynolds et al does not anticipate, teach or suggest a receptacle of any type located between the first and second longitudinal ends as recited in claim 3, such as a picture frame as recited in claim 4, or a hollow box as recited in claim 5, or a hollow container as recited in claim 6. In the case of the receptacle, such as a picture frame, hollow box or hollow container, the structural configuration is functional as well as ornamental, and the Examiner has not found any reference which would anticipate, teach or suggest these features. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 19 and 20 have been added in this Amendment for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 19 recites that the bracket includes self-interlocking complementary surfaces formed on each longitudinal end of the cross brace and each corresponding releasable attachment location of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member. Claim 20 further recites that the bracket includes an enlarged portion adjacent each outer end of the first and second elongate portions of the angled member corresponding to the attachment locations for the cross brace. It is submitted that claims 19 and 20 patentably define over the references cited by the Examiner and made of record. The Examiner's consideration of new claims 19 and 20 is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as

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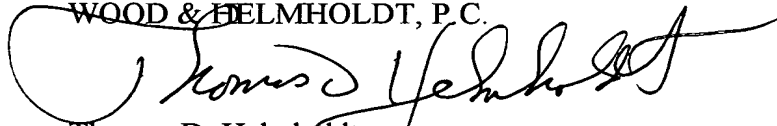
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originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,  
~~WOOD & HELMHOLDT~~, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", is written over the printed name of the attorney.

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TDH/cmp

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1, adding numerals 12, 14 and 30.